

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Notes on *Piper rubroglandulosum* (Piperaceae) in Thailand

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Piper rubroglandulosum Chaveer. & Mokkamul was recently published from Thailand, but pistillate plants were unknown. In this paper the pistillate spike, pistillate flowers and fruit are described and illustrated based on pistillate plants found in the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center, Phuket Province, southern Thailand, in 2009.

Key words: *Piper*, *Piper rubroglandulosum*, Piperaceae, pistillated flower, Thailand

Piper (Piperaceae) contains over 1,000 species (Tebbs 1993) distributed mainly in tropical regions worldwide. Forty species have been reported from Thailand (Chaveerach *et al.* 2008). Among them, *P. rubroglandulosum* Chaveer. & Mokkamul, which was known only from staminate plants, has a staminate inflorescence similar to the one in *P. betle* L. On 23 March 2009, we found pistillate plants bearing flowers and fruits at Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center, Phuket Province, southern Thailand. The pistillate spike, pistillate flowers and fruit are described and illustrated below (Figs. 1 & 2).

Piper rubroglandulosum Chaveer. & Mokkamul, Acta Phytotax. Geobot. 59(2): 142–145, figs. 26 & 27 (2008).

Pistillate plants resemble staminate plants, as described by Chaveerach *et al.* (2008). Pistillate spike pendulous, 1.5–2.5 cm long, 3–5 mm in diameter; peduncle 1–1.2 cm long; rachis hairy; bracts rounded, margin free, pedicel short, pubescent; stigmas (4)–5. Fruiting spike pendulous,

3–7 cm long, ca. 0.7–1.3 cm in diameter; peduncle 1–1.2 cm long; bracts pubescent. Fruits embedded in rachis, pubescent. Flowering and fruiting: March.

Specimens examined. THAILAND. **Southern.** Phuket Province: Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center, 100–900 m alt., 23 March 2009, *A. Chaveerach* 616 & 617 (BK). —Surat Thani Province: Khlong Phanom National Park, 100–200 m alt., *A. Chaveerach* 314 (BK). —Phang Nga Province, Sri Phang Nga National Park, 100–900 m alt., *A. Chaveerach* 317 (BK). **Northeastern.** Loei Province: Phu Luang Wildlife Sanctuary, 800–900 m alt., *A. Chaveerach* 318 (BK). **Central.** Suphan Buri Province: Phu Toei National Park, 800–900 m alt., *A. Chaveerach* 319 (BK).

References

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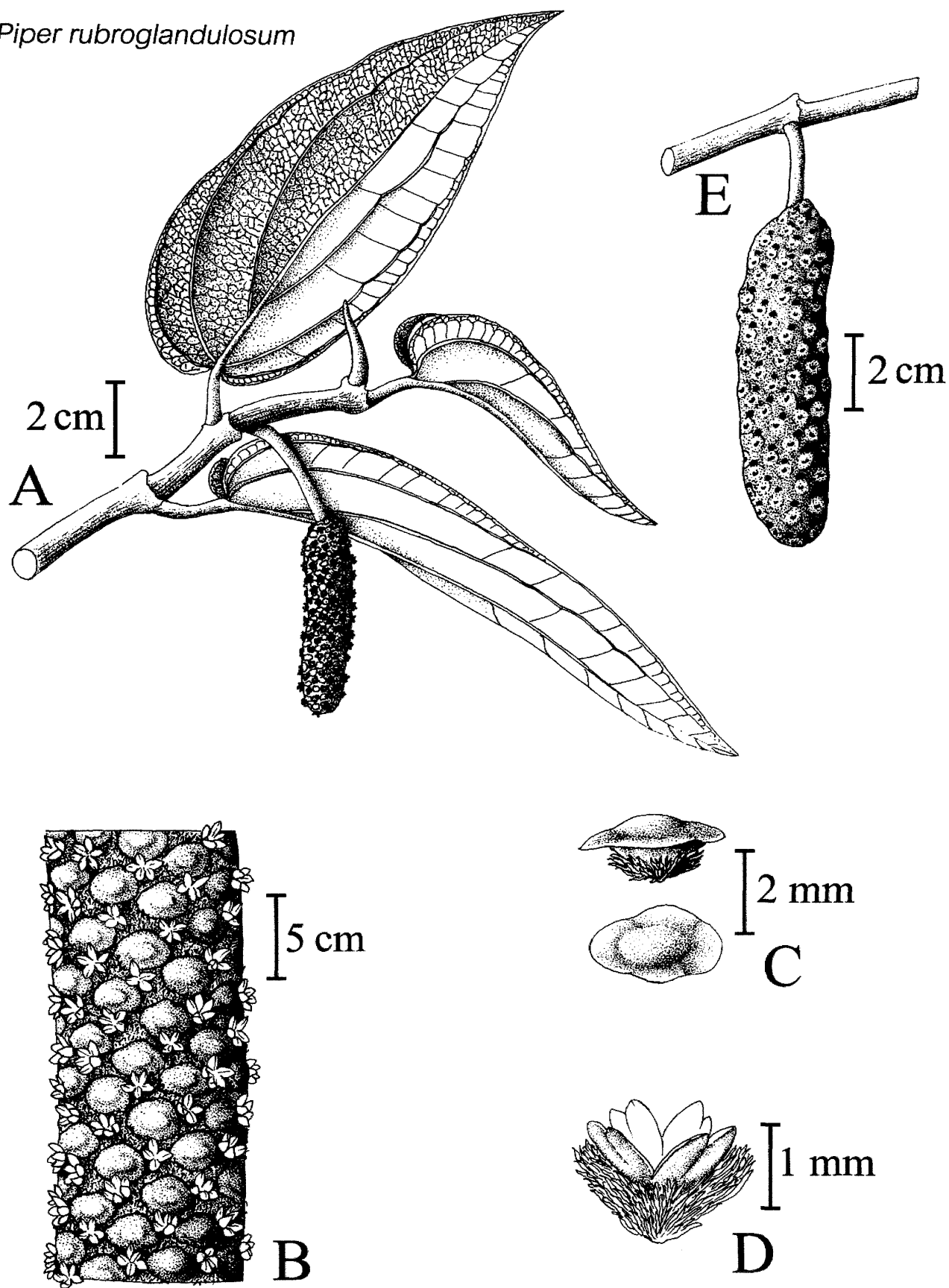
Piper rubroglandulosum

FIG. 1. Pistillate plants of *Piper rubroglandulosum* Chaveer. & Mokkamul. A: leaves and pistillate spike. B : enlarged pistillate spike. C: bract. D: four stigmas showing hairs on rachis. E: fruiting spike. [A–D: *A. Chaveerach* 616 (BK), E: *A. Chaveerach* 617 (BK).]

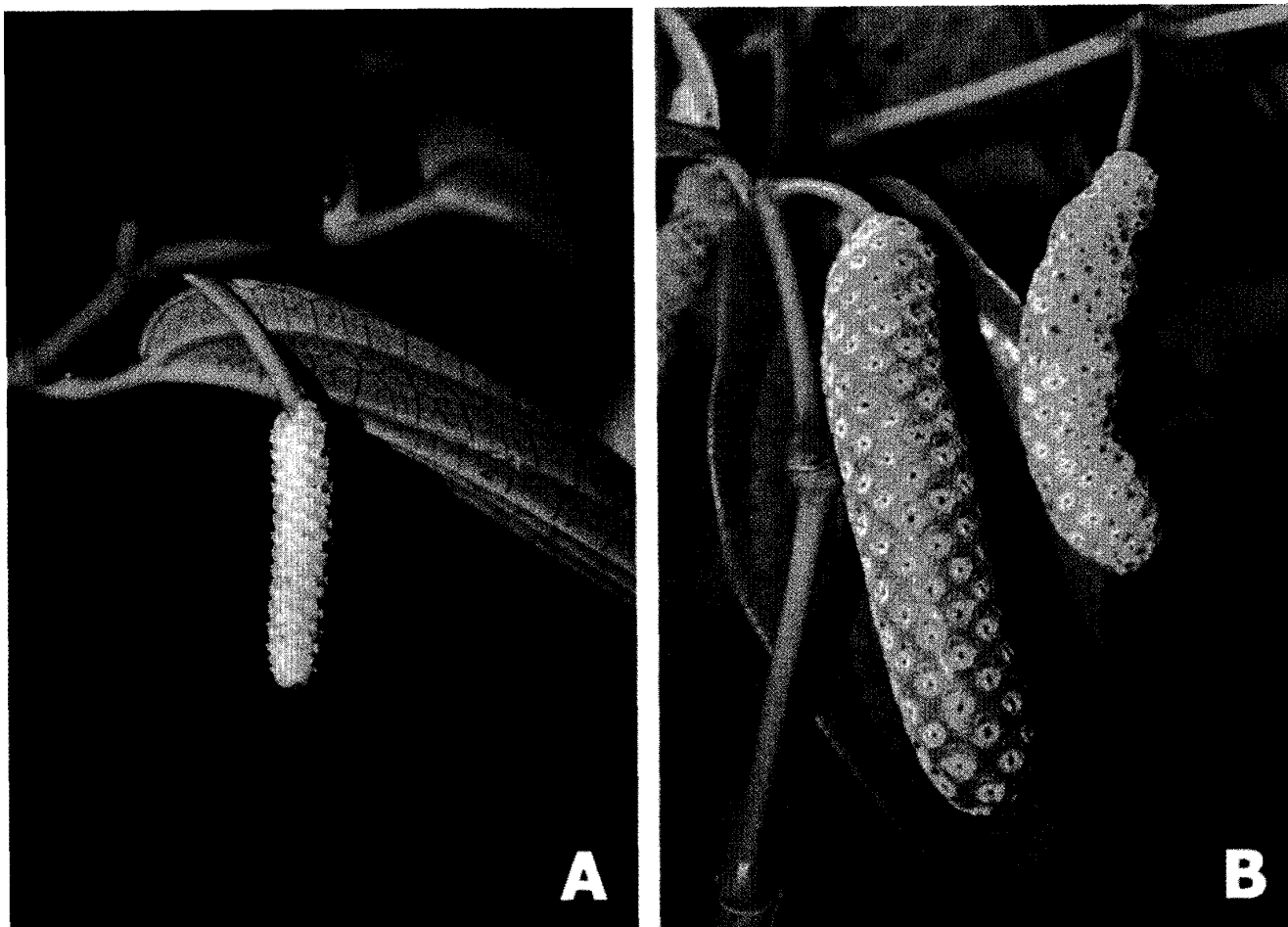


FIG. 2. Pistillate plants of *Piper rubroglandulosum* Chaveer. & Mekkamul. A: branch with pistillate spike [A. Chaveerach 616]. B: branch with fruiting spikes [A. Chaveerach 617].

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